

REMARKS

Amendment to claim 1 is for the purpose of clarifying what Applicants regard as the invention. Amendment to claim 5 is to rewrite this claim in independent form. No new matter has been added.

I. **ALLOWED CLAIMS**

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 11-50.

II. **OBJECTED CLAIMS**

Claims 5-9 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 5 has be rewritten in independent form. As such, claim 5 and its dependent claims are believed allowable.

III. **CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1-4 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,707,876 (Tanigawa). Claim 1 has been amended to recite an access circuit configured to collect signals from two or more of the lines of detector elements simultaneously, wherein the access circuit is further configured to maintain the collected signals *separated* from each other to thereby allow the signals *be individually processed* (emphasis added). Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 is allowable over Tanigawa because Tanigawa discloses collecting signals from two rows in a manner that would cause the signals to be combined, wherein the signals, once combined, are incapable of being individually processed (column 12, lines 34-39 and 55-59, and figures 9-12 in which S1 and S2 each represents combined projection data). In addition, that Tanigawa is different from the subject matter of claim 1 is further supported by the fact that the subject matter of claim 1 can be practiced with Tanigawa, in that signal(s) from a first set of one or more lines can be collected simultaneously with signal(s) from a second set of one or more lines, wherein the signals from the lines in each set may be combined, but the signals from the first set is

not combined with signals from the second set. For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 and its dependent claims are believed allowable over Tanigawa.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, all remaining claims are believed in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this amendment, please contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,
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